



News and Events in the 5th Grade  
October 11, 2011  
[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

#### **Important Dates**

October 12      Unit 2 Math test  
Week of Oct. 17      Parent-Teacher Conferences

#### **Dear Families,**

Parent-teacher conferences will be held next week. If you haven't yet signed up for a conference, please contact your child's homeroom teacher. A preconference parent form was sent home today. Please complete the form and return it to school prior to your conference so that we may best utilize our conference time. A copy of the preconference form is also posted on the wiki. Also, don't forget to visit the book fair, which will be open during conference week.

Several parents have volunteered to help with our reading interventions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We are still in need of help for math interventions. If you are available on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 10:25 - 10:45 and would like to help, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Reading Olympics is underway. Reading Olympics is open to all 5th graders and we encourage all to participate.

#### **Specials**

**Art** - The Art Room blog is back! Please check out [www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com). Here you can see what your student is learning about in Art, and see our artwork as well.

**Music** - We delayed the start of recorders to this week, because we did not have enough 5th graders who had brought recorders. We will definitely be starting recorders this week! Your child's grade will be affected if they do not have a recorder, so if you are new or have lost your recorder, the preferred method of payment is to [buy a recorder from the web store](#). If you cannot buy one from the web store, they are 5 dollars cash or check to District 97. Music link: <https://sites.google.com/a/op97.org/holmes-music/>

**Spanish** - Students took a reading and listening test last week on the *Montaña Hamburguesa*. They will be starting a new story this week, *El Muchacho Pastor*. [www.mpoleski.blogspot.com](http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com)

**Library** - Information can be found on the Holmes Library page on our school website, <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.



## Reading/Literature

### Unit Title/Theme

Taking a Stand

### Enduring Understanding

Sometimes conditions or situations in life force people to take action.

### Essential Question

What makes people take action?

### Word Study Skill

Morphology/Word Families

r - controlled vowels

### Comprehension Skill

Drawing Conclusions

## Language Arts/Writing

**Writing Assignment:** This week students will begin brainstorming topics for their persuasive essays. They will identify reasons to support their position, and have time to research facts to support those reasons. Students will also be introduced to strategies that are used to persuade.

**Grammar Focus:** The grammar focus for this week is correcting run-on and fragment sentences.

## Math

Graded quizzes were returned to your child today. Last week, we finished up Unit 2 and we will have our unit test tomorrow. We reviewed in class today, and students have a study sheet from which to study. Tomorrow's test will cover addition, subtraction and multiplication of whole numbers and decimals, as well as rounding and estimating. Although students learned a variety of computation algorithms, students may use which ever method works best. The only requirement is that students show their work. On Thursday, we will begin a very short unit on division.

## Science

This week, we will continue our study of water pollution. Last week, we planted grass seed and watered the seed with an acid water mixture to simulate acid rain. Today, we examined our plants to see if we could observe the effect of acid rain on plant growth. We also discussed the pH scale and used pH paper to test the acidity of several liquids. On Thursday, we will take a look at some rainwater samples and determine whether rainwater has significant impurities.

## Social Studies

Last week we incorporated current events into our discussion of people who changed history with a discussion of Steve Jobs. This week, students will choose a historical figure to research with an emphasis on people who have made positive contributions. We'll also continue our focus on European exploration to America and early settlements.

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